

WORSBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
(Yorks.)

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1947

WOMBWELL

A. TAYLOR AND SONS, LTD., STATION ROAD

WORSBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending 31st DECEMBER 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Worsborough Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your Urban District for the year ended 31st December, 1947. The report, compiled from the data and statistics collected during the term of office of my predecessor, is prepared in the form prescribed in the Ministry of Health Circular letter dated the 31st December, 1947 and along the lines followed in previous annual reports.

The Registrar General is unable to give a Comparability Factor and the statistics contained in the report therefore cannot be compared with the statistics relating to other districts. The Vital Statistics are not entirely satisfactory and there are one or two aspects of them to which I would draw your attention. The still-birth rate last year rose above the rate for the previous year and is over twice as high as the general rate for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate also increased so that after a period of two years when it fell below the general rate for the country it is now once again a little higher. These rates can be lowered but it will mean greater efforts in the field of health education to convince parents and future parents alike of the absolute need for proper ante-natal care and child welfare supervision.

The birth rate for the year was 21·5 as compared with 21·2 for 1946 and 20·5 for England and Wales. The death rate was 11·8 as compared with 9·16 for 1946 and 12·0 for the country as a whole. The actual number of deaths for all ages in the district was 161 while the total number of live births was 292 giving a natural increase of births over deaths of 131.

The number of notifiable infectious diseases increased from 190 in 1946 to 362 last year due to a mild epidemic of measles in the second and third quarters of the year.

I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of my predecessor, to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support and for their continued interest in all matters relating to the health of the district. I also wish to acknowledge with thanks the valuable help and support received from all members of my staff and in particular my Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Dove. He has prepared that part of the report dealing with the Sanitary circumstances of the district.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. HYND,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	3,420 acres
Census figure, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	12,490
Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1947	...	...	...	...	...	13,590
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	3,740
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£49,726
Nett product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£176

Coal mining is the principal occupation of the population. A welcome addition to the industrial life of the district was made during the year by the erection of a new factory for the manufacture of silk hosiery ware. The factory was completed and in operation by the early part of 1948 and has provided very suitable employment under good working conditions for women in the district. I hope this new industry will be followed by others and so help to further the economic life and prosperity of the township.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	146	129	275
Illegitimate	14	3	17
TOTALS	160	132	292

The number of live births registered shows an increase of 7 over the previous year with a birth rate of 21·50 per 1,000 civilian population as compared with 21·22 for 1946. The birth rate for England and Wales as a whole was 20·5 per 1,000 civilian population.

Still Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	6	12
Illegitimate	—	1	1
TOTALS	6	7	13

Birth Rate (live and still) per 1,000 of the estimated population 22·59.

The still birth rate was 1·10 per 1,000 civilian population as against 0·97 for the previous year and compares very unfavourably with the rate of 0·50 for England and Wales. Good housing, adequate diet, sufficient rest and careful ante-natal supervision are some of the factors affecting the still birth rate and it is obvious much more progress in Health Education must be made if the present still birth rate is to be materially lowered.

Deaths.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	95	66	161

The Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 11·8 as compared with 9·16 for the previous year. The death rate for the country as a whole was 12·0 per 1,000 estimated population. The increase in the number of deaths was almost entirely confined to the male population with 95 deaths recorded as compared with 58 in 1946. An analysis of the table giving the deaths in age groups reveals the increase to be in the higher age groups from 55 years onwards. Deaths due to cardiac and vascular diseases, cancer and pulmonary tuberculosis caused the greater proportion of the increase. While it is difficult to say whether the increase in the deaths from these diseases is statistically significant nevertheless the fact must be noted.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :		

Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.00
Other Puerperal causes ...	0.00	0.00

It is pleasing to record that no deaths due to maternal causes occurred.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :

All infants per 1,000 live births	13	44.52
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	13	47.27
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	0	00.00
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	0	
Rate per 1,000 population		0.00
Rate per 1,000 live births		0.00
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		1
Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages)		0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		18

Deaths in Age Groups.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	8	5	13
1—5 years	2	2	4
5—10 „	0	1	1
10—15 „	1	0	1
15—20 „	0	0	0
20—25 „	4	0	4
25—35 „	4	2	6
35—45 „	7	3	10
45—55 „	4	7	11
55—65 „	12	6	18
65—70 „	13	12	25
70—75 „	15	10	25
75—80 „	13	6	19
80—85 „	8	10	18
85—90 „	4	1	5
90 and over	0	1	1
TOTALS	95	66	161

Infantile Mortality Rate.

The following table shows the infantile death rates for the past 10 years.

1938	...	53.94	1943	...	62.28
1939	...	63.29	1944	...	66.22
1940	...	59.47	1945	...	35.58
1941	...	70.70	1946	...	35.08
1942	...	59.47	1947	...	44.52

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 13 compared with 10 for the previous year. The infantile death rate for England and Wales for 1947 was 41 and so once again after a brighter period of 2 years the rate has exceeded that for England and Wales.

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN 1947.

Nett deaths from stated causes under one year of age.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	4	1	...	...	5	...	...	1	...	6
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	0	...	2	...	...	2
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	0
Enteritis & Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	0
Other Causes	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	2	...	5
Totals ...	5	2	...	...	7	1	2	3	...	13

Deaths of Children under 2 years of age from Enteritis and Diarrhoea.

No child under two years of age died from this cause.

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

The Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (i.e., the mortality rate during the first month of life) for 1947 was 23·97 per 1,000 registered live births. The corresponding figure for last year was 17·55.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1947.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
All Causes	95	66
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	3
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9. Influenza	2	1
10. Measles	1	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	—	—
12. Acute infantile encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of buc: cav: and œsoph: (M) uterus (F)	—	—
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	1
15. Cancer of breast	—	—
16. Cancer of all other sites	10	2
17. Diabetes	1	—
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	8	9
19. Heart Diseases	24	23
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	3	2
21. Bronchitis	4	1
22. Pneumonia	2	5
23. Other respiratory diseases	—	1
24. Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	3	—
25. Diarrhoea, under 2 years	—	—
26. Appendicitis	1	—
27. Other digestive diseases	1	—
28. Nephritis	1	3
29. Puerperal and post-abortion; sepsis	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—
31. Premature birth	—	1
32. Cong mal: birth inj: infant: dis:	3	3
33. Suicide	—	—
34. Road traffic accidents	—	—
35. Other violent causes	5	1
36. All other causes	14	9

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1947.

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	WORSBRO U. D. C.	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and great towns including London	148 smaller towns, resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adminis. County
Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population					
Births :					
Live	21.5	20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still	1.10	0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49
Deaths :					
All causes ...	11.8	12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and para- typhoid fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.22	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Notifications :					
Typhoid Fever ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever ...	2.57	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping Cough	4.26	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria ...	0.22	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas ...	0.36	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles	18.24	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia ...	0.51	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64
Rate per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	45	41	47	36	37
Deaths from Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age	—	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8
Rate per 1000 Total Births (Live and Still)					
Maternal Mortality:					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.26	} Not available		
Others	0.00	0.91			
Total	0.00	1.17			
Notifications:					
Puerperal Fever }	3.25	7.16	8.99	6.27	6.94
Puerperal Pyrexia }					

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Based on Registrar General's Figures.

	Worsborough Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (provisional figures)
Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated pop.) ...	21.5	21.6	21.5	20.5
Death Rates (all, per 1,000 estimated pop.)				
All Causes	11.8	12.7	12.3	12.0
Zymotic Diseases (7 principal)	0.07	0.16	0.16	not available
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	0.66	0.38	0.39	0.47
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.15	0.09	0.09	0.08
Respiratory diseases (excluding tubercu- losis of resp. system)	0.96	1.41	1.37	not available
Cancer	1.32	1.87	1.80	1.85
Heart & circulatory diseases	3.83	4.23	3.98	not available
Infant Mortality (Deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	45	44	45	41
Diarrhoea (Deaths in infants under 2 yrs. of age per 1,000 live births)	—	5.17	5.31	5.8
Maternal Mortality (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)				
Puerperal sepsis ...	—	0.24	0.21	0.26
Other Causes	—	0.88	1.07	0.91
TOTAL	—	1.12	1.28	1.17

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (part-time): Dr. Jean H. Ritchie,
M.B., Ch.B. (Resigned 31st December, 1947)

Chief Sanitary Inspector : Lyndon Dove, Cert. S.I.B.,
M.S.I.A., Certificated Inspector of Meat and other
foods.

Pupil Assistant : William Wadsworth.

Clerk : Marion Ollerton.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are the same as last year. The examination of sputum, throat swabs, faeces and other pathological specimens is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Wakefield. The laboratory also examines samples of milk for tubercle bacilli and bacteriological content.

Samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act are analysed by the Public Analyst at Bradford at the expense of the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance facilities were the same as in the previous year but a change in the administration of the service was made on the 1st October, 1947. On that date the County Council assumed responsibility for the ambulance service for the conveyance of accident and non-infectious cases to hospital with your Council acting as agent on their behalf for local administration. The local administration remained unchanged from that followed in previous years save that from the 1st October, 1947 your Council ceased to charge the individual users for the services of the ambulance. The practical effect of the change was therefore purely financial and made no difference to the actual running of the service.

During the year 1,103 journeys were made.

The ambulance arrangements for the removal of infectious cases to hospital remained in the hands of the Wath, Swinton and District Joint Hospital Board of which your Council is a member.

Nursing in the Home.

This is in the main undertaken by the "Cooper and Worsborough District Nursing Association" which is affiliated to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses. The Association employs one nurse and provides skilled nursing for those who are unable to employ a private nurse. Nursing is provided free to non-subscribers to the Association at the discretion of the Executive Committee in cases of necessity.

Medical Services.

Ante-natal, child welfare and school clinics, under the control of the County Council, continued unchanged during the year. The clinics are situate in Worsborough Bridge, Worsborough Dale, Birdwell and Blacker Hill. The school clinics are held twice weekly, child welfare clinics weekly and ante-natal clinics fortnightly in each area. The clinics have been well attended during the year and undoubtedly have performed a most useful service. Arrangements are made by the County Council for any patient to receive consultant opinion where this is deemed necessary by the Medical Officer in charge of the clinic.

Three whole-time Health Visitors are employed for child welfare and School Medical work.

Hospitals.

(1) General Infectious Diseases.

Cases of notifiable infectious diseases occurring in your district are admitted to the Wath Wood Isolation Hospital for investigation and treatment. The hospital is owned and maintained jointly by the Wath-upon-Dearne, Swinton, Dearne, Hoyland and Worsborough Urban Districts with the Rotherham Rural District Council sending patients into the hospital from the northern part of their district only. The hospital is controlled by the Wath, Swinton and District Joint Hospital Board which is composed of members from the authorities named.

By arrangement with Rawmarsh, Swallownest and Wath Wood, the joint hospital at Brampton-en-le-Morthen is available for the treatment of smallpox cases.

(2) Voluntary Hospitals.

The hospitals mainly used by the inhabitants of the district for accidents and general diseases are :

- (a) Barnsley Beckett Hospital
- (b) Barnsley St. Helen Hospital
- (c) Sheffield Royal Infirmary
- (d) Sheffield Royal Hospital
- (e) Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield.

The Council have no arrangement with any of the above hospitals for the admission of patients.

(3) Public Assistance Hospitals.

(a) St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.

Midwifery Service.

The number of midwives practising in Worsborough is 4, all of whom are employed whole time by the County Council.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council purchase water in bulk from Barnsley Corporation and re-distribute it to the district.

There are eleven houses in the district without a piped supply. All are in the outlying districts and seven of them rely on well-water which bacteriological examination has shewn to be satisfactory. Two houses belonging to the Railway Executive have a daily supply brought in covered cans and the remaining two, belonging to the National Coal Board, draw their water from an adjacent colliery. This is obviously a very unsatisfactory arrangement, particularly in bad weather, but the houses are in a very poor structural condition and should be the subject of Housing Act procedure as soon as conditions permit.

Bacteriological examination was made of one well water serving "Keeper's Cottage", Round Green, the Report showing that B. Coli was absent and the water was classed "Satisfactory".

The quality of the main water supply is satisfactory as shewn by the following extract from the Analyst's Report, but the quantity was seriously affected in the late summer by the continuous drought which necessitated the complete shutting-off from 8 p.m. each night until 6 a.m. the following morning.

There was no doubt that this caused much inconvenience, particularly at first, and there was doubt amongst the public as to whether any saving was being effected, but readings shewed that this measure, together with the prohibition of watering gardens, etc. reduced water consumption by one-third.

The following is the Analyst's Report on a sample of the main water supply taken during the year :—

	Parts per 100,000
Total solids dried at 180° C.	7·65
Chlorides in terms of Chlorine	1·15
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	1·90
Nitrates	Absent
Nitrates as Nitrogen	0·08
Poisonous metals (lead etc.)	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F ...	0·044
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0·0014
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0·0040
Free Chlorine parts per million - trace, less than	0·05
P.H. value	6·8
Calculated Hardness—Temporary ...	1·1
Permanent ...	3·1
	<hr/>
	4·2
	<hr/>

Drainage and Sewerage.

The portion of the main sewer in West Street lying between Glasshouse Crossing and the manhole prior to crossing the canal is continually standing in sewage and appears to have become affected with subsidence. In times of very heavy rain the drains of Dearne Terrace become surcharged, and sewage has been known to overflow the W.C. basins of this property.

The Council have had under consideration the laying of a new sewer from Glasshouse Crossing, under the canal basin and connecting to the new 24" outfall sewer completed last year, but so far no start has been made on this project.

Closet Accommodation.

No systematic conversion of the remaining privy middens has been considered owing to the present high cost of the work involved. The majority of the privies are in the outlying parts of the district where no sewer is available and in only 30 of the 81 cases could connection to a sewer be made.

One privy midden serving a cottage in Worsborough Park was abolished and replaced by the provision of an inside W.C. The work was done voluntarily by the owner, and no contribution was made by the Council.

The following table shews the number of sanitary conveniences of all types :

Privy middens	81
Waste water closets	56
Pail Closets	6
Water closets (approx.)	3050

Public Cleansing.

House scavenging is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Sanitary Inspector, and throughout the year a regular weekly collection of bins and a fortnightly cleansing of middens and ashpits has been maintained.

Two refuse collection vehicles are in use, a 10 cub. yd. Dennis and 7 cub. yd. Karrier Bantam. The staff consists of one foreman and ten men, who provide a good service in a district where the yield of refuse is great, owing to the high proportion of householders who are miners and thus entitled to "home coals" amounting to one ton per month.

It is hoped that the supply position regarding bins will soon improve to allow the abolition of the few ashpits remaining in the district.

There were approximately 3,576 dustbins, 46 ashpits and 81 privy middens in the district at December 31st.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

Inspections and Disinfections ...	75
Further enquiries	—
Schools disinfected	1
Other disinfections	2
Miscellaneous visits	12
Scabies visits	2

92

Cowsheds and Food.

Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	133	
Milk Samples	...	...	8	
Meat Inspections	...	...	274	
Bakehouses	...	...	6	
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	7	
Food Inspections	...	...	9	
Water Samples	...	...	2	
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...		1	
			—	440

Housing.

Houses inspected for defects	...	191	
Re-visits	...	—	
General Surveys	...	—	
Council Houses	...	10	
Overcrowding Survey visits	...	859	
P.H.A. inspections	...	10	
		—	1070

Offensive Trades.

Fried Fish Shops	...	18	
		—	18

Sanitary Matters.

Investigation of Complaints	...	197	
Re-visits to Complaints	...	173	
Nuisances	...	45	
Verminous Premises	...	27	
Privies	...	5	
Drains Tested	...	6	
Piggery Inspections	...	17	
Rat Infestation Visits	...	33	
Works in Progress	...	8	
Sewer Inspections	...	—	
Sewage Plant Inspections	...	—	
Docket closet inspections	...	—	
		—	511

Scavenging.

Refuse Tips	...	42	
Ashpits	...	—	
Supervision of men	...	—	
		—	42

Miscellaneous

Colliery spoilbanks	...	...	...	1
Factory inspections	...	...	...	11
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Acts Inspections	...	...	...	—
Shops Act Inspections	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous Journeys	...	...	...	404
Interviews and Appointments	...	...	...	414
Schools	...	...	...	2
				—
				833
Number of Informal Notices served (Public Health Act)	...	...	...	135
Number of Informal Notices served (Housing Act)	...	...	...	79
Number of Statutory Notices served (Public Health Act)	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices served (Housing Act, Sec. 9)	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Nuisances reported to Public Health Committee	...	...	...	143
Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	132
Number of Nuisances outstanding at year end	...	...	...	11

Shops Act.

No action during the year.

Camping Sites.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district and no moveable dwellings are used for habitation.

During the year one van appeared overnight on land adjoining the main road in Worsborough Bridge. The occupant was interviewed and immediately pleaded the usual story that the horse had developed lameness. He was told he could not stay, and the assistance of the Police was also sought with the result that the van was removed within 3 days.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was necessary during the year.

Colliery Spoilbanks.

There is only one Colliery in the area, the Barrow Colliery, and it was not necessary to make any complaint regarding the condition of the Colliery spoilbank, during the year. The spoilbank fortunately adjoins a stream and fire is kept under control by means of water sprays operated by pump.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year complaints were received from eight house-holders that their dwellings were infested with bed-bugs and after investigation these eight houses, together with four adjoining houses, were sprayed with Zaldecide/DDT and no further complaint has been made.

Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Fourteen premises are registered for carrying on the trade of fish-frying and are regularly visited.

SECTION D.

HOUSING STATISTICS

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	201
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	231
2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1942	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	191

(2) Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 180

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

(a) By owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :—

(1) Number of representations, etc. made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition or Clearance Orders 0

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
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Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.

Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	85
(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	47
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	149½
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become over-crowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

Overcrowding Survey.

To enable the Council to judge as accurately as possible the housing conditions in the district when letting their new houses an overcrowding survey of the district was made.

This was carried out in the latter part of 1946 and the early part of 1947.

The results of the survey were divided into two main groups, viz. (a) overcrowded cases and (b) lodger families whether overcrowded or not; as it was felt that this would enable the Council to give consideration both to overcrowded cases and also to young married couples who, although they were not overcrowded, had been living in lodgings for several years and badly needed a home of their own.

Overcrowding was divided again into two classes (a) legal overcrowding, that is in accordance with the acknowledged inadequate standard laid down by the Housing Act, 1936, and (b) moral overcrowding. The main figures provided by the Survey were :—

Legally overcrowded cases in single families ...	56
Legally overcrowded cases in lodger families ...	29
Morally overcrowded cases in single families ...	189
Lodger families but not overcrowded	359

As nearly one-third of the houses in the area are actually Council houses, it was considered that it would be advantageous to give the Council fuller information on these properties so that they could see exactly the conditions under which their own houses were being occupied. It was interesting to observe how some of the houses had become occupied with the passage of time, the figures demonstrating that although houses may originally be let to suitable families, the larger and older families gradually decrease by marriage of the sons and daughters, and the smaller and younger families frequently outgrow their accommodation by reason of natural increase, e.g. it was found that one four-bedroomed house contained only four persons whereas we had two bedrooms containing eight persons and three bedrooms containing as many as thirteen persons.

The average family per Council house was found to be 4.40 persons.

These figures did raise the question of possible rearrangement of tenants to utilise existing accommodation to the best advantage as it was obvious that many cases of overcrowding could be overcome without a single new house being built. The Council were loathe to insist on wholesale transfers as there were many factors to be taken into account. Many families, for instance, would object to being moved into a new locality; there would in many cases be the question of the cleanliness of the larger or smaller house offered, and there would also often be the objection on sentimental grounds where perhaps one partner had died leaving the other alone in a two or three-bedroomed house, but one in which the survivor wished to remain.

The Council addressed a printed appeal to its tenants asking for their co-operation in solving at least one aspect of the housing problem by voluntarily agreeing to exchange their house for one better suited to their requirements. This appeal met with a very satisfactory response and many exchanges took place. To overcome the question of cleanliness, the Council agreed to redecorate, free of charge, any house which the Sanitary Inspector and Housing Agent considered should be decorated before an exchange took place.

During the year 40 families exchanged houses as a direct result of this survey and the majority of the under-crowding and overcrowding cases in Council houses were dealt with.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

Seven official samples of milk were taken in course of delivery to the consumer by retailers, under the Food and Drugs Act and submitted to the Public Analyst at Bradford. In one sample, whilst the "solids not fat" fell below the presumptive limit of 8.5, the freezing point indicated that water had not been added and the Analyst declared it to be genuine.

One sample was found to be adulterated and a second sample taken from the same retailer within 48 hours of the first also proved to be adulterated. Proceedings were taken and the retailer was fined £2 and costs on each summons. Such small fines are no deterrent to the offender, and small incentive to the officer.

There are twenty one registered milk producers in the area, two of them producing "Tuberculin-tested" milk and four producing "Accredited" milk under licence from the County Council.

The County Council take samples of the designated milks and during the year submitted reports on nine samples, one of which failed to satisfy the methylene blue test.

Notices were served requiring the limewashing of six cowsheds.

Meat.

The whole of the butchers' meat is slaughtered in Barnsley at the Abattoir and is forwarded to a local slaughterhouse for allocation to the butchers. The quality of some of the frozen meat was very poor, due mainly to bad handling and transport and it was necessary to reject some of this meat during the year.

Further details of this and other foods condemned will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's section of the Report.

Ice Cream.

There are two premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture of ice cream, but only one is in use.

The premises concerned are entirely satisfactory and a pasteurised product is manufactured. The manufacturer also supplies ice cream wholesale to several multiple concerns in surrounding towns and no complaint has been made by those authorities.

Toffee apple making.

It was learned that tenants of three Council houses were manufacturing toffee apples and selling them to children in the neighbourhood. One of the tenants was suffering from T.B. and in another house there had been a recent case of Scarlet Fever. All three were visited by the Sanitary Inspector and Housing Manager and the business was immediately stopped.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

During the year a total of 362 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified. The following tables are self-explanatory.

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.		Cases removed to Hospital
	Smallpox	
35	Scarlet Fever	
3	Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	
	Typhoid	Enteric Fever
	Paratyphoid	
7	Pneumonia	
	Puerperal Fever	
1	Puerperal Pyrexia	
1	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
2	Acute Poliomyelitis	
	Acute Polio-Encephalitis	
	Typhus Fever	
	Relapsing Fever	
	Continued Fever	
	Dysentery	
1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
5	Erysipelas	
12	Respiratory Tuberculosis (New cases only)	
5	Other forms of Tuberculosis (New cases only)	
	Contracted in England	Malaria
	Induced in Institutions	
	Chickenpox	
248	Measles (including German Measles.)	
58	Whooping Cough	
32	Scarlet Fever	
3	Diphtheria	
1	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
2	Acute Poliomyelitis	

Statement of Notification of Infectious Diseases received during the year.

Infectious Diseases in Age Groups.

	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10- 15	15- 20	20- 35	35- 45	45- 65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	5	2	2	18	4	—	3	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...				+ 1 age not known								
				1 age not known.								

Scarlet Fever.

During the year 35 cases were notified, of whom 32 were admitted to hospital as against 37 during 1946. The disease was mild in character and without complications. The distribution was scattered throughout the district and no one area was particularly affected.

Diphtheria.

3 cases of Diphtheria were notified during 1947 but after further investigation in hospital the diagnosis was not confirmed in two cases. The one proved case occurred in a young woman of 27 who had not been immunised and she eventually made a complete recovery. The number of confirmed cases of diphtheria in the district has fallen very considerably in the past 5 years and the reduction in the incidence is almost certainly due to the high percentage of children who have been protected by immunization. It is worth noting that during the past 3 years no child has contracted the disease who has been successfully immunized. There is evident, however, a tendency for the number of parents accepting immunization for their children to fall, a tendency which must be checked

if the disease is to be eradicated from the district and which if unchecked might lead to the return of the disease in all its old virulence. Last year 166 children under 5 years of age and 26 in the 5—15 age group were immunized as compared with the 159 and 78 respectively for 1946. It is estimated that approximately 38% of children under 5 and 71% of children of school age have been immunized. The figure for the under 5 group particularly is not high enough, especially when it is remembered that it is in this group that the fatality rate, though not necessarily the incidence, is the highest. Under the County Council scheme facilities for immunization are freely offered either by the family doctor or by medical officers of the County Council at the clinics and schools and in the interest of the child every parent should accept these facilities.

Measles.

Last year 248 cases of measles were recorded as against 3 cases in 1946. The epidemic was not severe and left no unpleasant after-effects among the children affected. The incidence was heaviest during the second and third quarters of the year and was widespread throughout the district. The incidence was not, however, as high as in the previous epidemic year of 1945 when 512 cases were recorded. One fatal case, in an infant of 7 months, was reported.

Whooping Cough.

58 cases were notified as against 91 in 1946. The disease was relatively mild in character and the incidence of complications very low.

Poliomyelitis.

The epidemic of Poliomyelitis which swept the country and particularly the West Riding of Yorkshire in the summer of 1947 fortunately left your district relatively untouched. Only two children contracted the disease, one aged 5½ months and the other 2 11/12 years. The disease in both cases was mild in character and I am glad to report both children left the hospital with no residual paralysis and without physical defect.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

One case of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis was notified during the year. The patient was admitted to hospital where she made an uneventful recovery.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 17 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 12 of whom were Pulmonary cases and 5 Non-Pulmonary cases. There were 9 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the year. The tables set out below are self-explanatory.

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases) for the past 10 years.

Year			New Cases		Deaths	
			Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1938	...	...	13	9	5	1
1939	...	...	10	6	4	0
1940	...	...	6	4	5	0
1941	...	...	4	3	3	1
1942	...	...	7	6	3	0
1943	...	...	8	4	7	2
1944	...	...	14	2	2	5
1945	...	...	9	5	4	2
1946	...	...	9	8	3	1
1947	...	...	12	5	9	2

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality in 1947.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
10—15	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15—20	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	...	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
25—35	...	...	1	—	1	—	3	1	—	—
35—45	...	...	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	—
45—55	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis. Record of Cases during 1947.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
No. of cases on register at 1st January, 1947	32	31	21	28
No. of cases notified for first time during year	7	5	3	2
No. of cases restored to register	—	—	—	—
No. of cases added to register otherwise than by notification	—	—	—	—
No. removed to other districts	—	—	—	—
No. cured or otherwise removed from register	5	6	3	2
No. died from disease	6	3	1	1
No. died from other causes	—	—	—	—
Total at end of 1947 ...	28	27	20	27

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

(Lyndon Dove, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.)

for the Year 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Worsborough
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Fourth Annual Report on work done by my Department.

The commencement of the year was marked by the Additional Sanitary Inspector leaving your employment, and the loss has been felt very much indeed. An effort was made to replace him but your advertisement for the appointment at Grade II, only attracted one applicant, who withdrew his application on being called for interview. In an effort to bridge the gap, I agreed to take in a student who commenced duties in June and has been very useful indeed, particularly in the less technical matters and we have managed to get through a fair amount of work during the year. Many of the finer details, such as control of milk production, have necessarily suffered by the loss of a qualified assistant, but we have endeavoured to give a good sanitary service.

Mention has already been made in the Medical Officer's section, of the overcrowding survey we made in the latter part of last year and the early part of this, and I feel that the tremendous amount of work this entailed, was amply justified by the detail we were able to supply the Council when they selected their first 160 post-war tenants.

The information regarding the Council's own houses was very revealing, and the results obtained in the exchange of tenancies were very gratifying.

The Housing Agent and myself visited the 160 selected tenants and examined their present accommodation for cleanliness and our inspection gave the following facts :-

Very clean	...	...	...	28%
Clean	...	...	...	33%
Fair	...	...	...	12%
Poor	...	...	...	4%
Verminous	...	...	...	16%
House not needed	...			7%

The number of verminous cases naturally gave cause for concern and I recommended the Council to insist on van fumigation in transit of all verminous homes with a stipulation that the tenant pay half the cost. This was agreed on and is being carried out without exception.

Meat Inspection

The district's meat supply is killed at the Barnsley Abattoir under the Government's centralisation of slaughter scheme and is then forwarded to one slaughterhouse in our own district for allocation to the butchers.

Whilst no complaint can be made regarding the inspection of the meat, one cannot say the same regarding transport. The present system may be ideal in many respects but one cannot avoid criticising the excessive amount of handling that the dead meat is subjected to before it finally reaches the consumer, each phase of which adds its own contribution of contamination, particularly in the case of uncovered English meat and offals.

The quality of imported meat has at times been very questionable due in many cases to bad handling and transport. On one occasion the local butchers refused to accept their quota of frozen meat and I was called in, with a result that five forequarters of beef were rejected by me and returned to Barnsley. I reported this to the Council who made a strong complaint direct to the Ministry of Food.

The number of pigs slaughtered for home consumption shews a further increase on the previous year and 256 pig carcasses were inspected. I have repeatedly complained against the present farcical legal position which

does not even provide for official inspection of these carcasses, let alone condemnation of any diseased or otherwise unwholesome part of such carcasses; simply because they are not "for sale". On enquiry at the Local Food Office I learn that licences to slaughter over 700 pigs were granted during the year and yet only 256 of these were inspected. In view of the list of diseased meat below it is certain beyond all doubt that a greater amount still has been consumed by pig-keepers, and their families, who did not request me to inspect their pigs.

Pigs heads—5—Tuberculosis.
Mesenterics—2—Tuberculosis.
Lungs—1—Tuberculosis.
Spleen—1—Tuberculosis.
Plucks—2—Tuberculosis.
Pluck—1—Cysts.
Kidneys—1—Cystic.
Carcase skinned—1—Urticaria.

In addition to the slaughter of the above pigs, there was also one calf and two goats slaughtered under licence. All three were found to be sound and were passed.

The following were also condemned for the reasons given :—

1 Forequarter frozen beef—Bone taint.
4½ lbs. Ham—Putrefaction.
13½ lbs. Bacon—Putrefaction.
5½ lbs. Butter—Rancid.
3 doz. Eggs—Putrefaction.

Milk and Cowsheds.

As reported elsewhere, proceedings were taken against one producer-retailer who sold me two adulterated samples in three days. The magistrates imposed a fine of £4 and costs which I considered to be inadequate in comparison with the offence.

The loss of my qualified assistant meant that I had to reluctantly abandon the system of regular bacteriological sampling of ordinary milk which I had been able to institute on his return from the Forces.

133 inspections were made of cowsheds and dairies during the year and notices were served requiring the lime-washing of five cowsheds.

Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

The Council have made byelaws for the regulation of the trade of fish-fryer and there are fourteen such premises in the area.

Housing.

Reference has been made to the overcrowding survey.

The Council had 160 houses under construction during the whole of the year, but progress was extremely slow and only twenty two were completed and tenanted at 31st December. The Council adopted what I considered a fair and wise policy in their selection of tenants. Five houses were reserved for special cases such as key-workers in new industries, and the remainder were allocated as follows :—

Overcrowded	... ..	100 houses
Young married couples in lodgings	... ..	40 houses
Approved medical cases	... ..	15 houses

Report was made on two houses which had been standing empty for a considerable time. The Council served a Requisition Notice in one case and the house was quickly and satisfactorily occupied immediately. In the second case the house was quickly sold and occupied when our enquiries commenced.

With regard to ordinary routine inspection work, this has been seriously curtailed in all areas by shortage of materials and restrictions imposed by the necessity for Building Licences. Essential repairs have been insisted upon but many undesirable dwellings have been given a further lease of life because of the housing shortage, and the problem of how much or how little to do in the way of repairs to them is a major one facing all sanitary officers today.

Rodent Control.

The Council carry out the recommendations of the Ministry of Food and employ a part-time operative on this work .

Refuse tips are baited monthly, and sewers receive the maintenance treatments required by the Ministry.

Verminous Premises.

Every assistance is given to householders in dealing with bed-bugs and liquid insecticides are issued free.

Insect powder is also issued free to householders where premises are infested with blackclocks, etc.

House Scavenging.

The work of the collection and disposal of house refuse has been carried out satisfactorily during the year and very few complaints were received.

In February there were exceptionally heavy falls of snow and the work of collection ceased completely for 18 days, the lorries being loaned to the Highways Department for snow-clearing.

At the end of the period, bins and back-yards were overflowing with refuse, and many of the back streets in areas like New England were also covered with refuse. The job of pulling up these heavy arrears was a hard one, but the work was done and in a few weeks we were once more back on our normal seven days collection of bins.

Two lorries are in use, a 10 cubic yard Dennis and a 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam and every attention is given them. Each weekend the body interiors are cleaned out and painted with used engine oil, and one half day per month each lorry stands in for cleaning, greasing and minor repairs. This policy has been a sound one and the vehicles are in very good condition indeed.

With a slight improvement in the supply of dustbins, we have been able to secure the abolition of further dry ashpits and the only ashpits left in the district now all belong to one estate in Worsborough Bridge. The manager has agreed to abolish these within a reasonable period.

Another noteworthy step during the year was the decision by the Council to employ a man on tip control. This is a measure I have been recommending for the past three years. The old-fashioned uncontrolled dumping of refuse was most unsatisfactory and my fears that a serious fire would eventually break out were realised in September when the Kendal Green tip fired over the weekend. All steps to abate this fire failed and eventually it was necessary to hire a mechanical excavator to cut a way through the deep tip and isolate the burning portion. In this manner the fire was controlled but not abated.

General.

Figures of inspections made are given in the Medical Officer's section of the Report.

Your obedient servant,

LYNDON DOVE.

